

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 INR-10 PA-03 PRS-01 OMB-01

DPW-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /134 W
----- 114078

O R 191430 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3689

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHIA

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BAGNKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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8 TFW UDORN
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3028

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW, 56 SOW AND 8 TFW
FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT -- APRIL 19

REF: VIENTIANE 2982

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTION REMAINED
VERY LOW THROUGHOUT LAOS DURING PERIOD 17-18 APRIL,
WITH ONLY THREE SCATTERED MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. RLAF
FLEW NO SORTIES. POLITICAL: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT
SUGGESTS THAT INTERNAL TALKS MAY BECOME A WASTE OF
TIME. RLG NEGOTIATOR NGON SANANIKONE CINFORMS NO PROGRESS
BEING MADE IN PRIVATE SESSION BUT SPECULATED THAT LPF
DESIRE TO CONTINUE THESE TALKS COULD MEAN LPF WILL MOVE
QUICKLY WHEN HANOI GIVES THE SIGNAL. CABINET DECIDED
TO ATTACH MILITARY MISSION FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (RLG
HALF OF EVENTUAL RLG/ LPF CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE) TO OFFICE OF PRIME
MINISTER. RADIO PATHET LAO PROTESTS AIR STRIKE IN THA VIENG AREA
AND ALSO BROADCASTS PHOUMI VONGVICHIT' S DENIALS OF SPLIT
IN LPF LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTIVITY REPORTED. KING
AND VIP PARTY MADE TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR' S JOURNEY
TO PAK OU CAVES NORTH OF LUANG PRABANG WITHOUT
INCIDENT ON 18 APRIL.

B. MR II: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR CLASH
NORTHEAST OF PADONG (SITE 5) ON 18 APRIL (THREE ENEMY
KIA). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

C. MR III: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR CLASH
NORTHEAST OF SENO ON 18 APRIL (ONE FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF
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FLEW NO SORTIES. SPOT REPORT INDICATED MINOR ATTACK ON POSITION WELL EAST OF THAKHEK EARLY MORNING 19 APRIL (NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE).

D. MR IV: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

E. MR V: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR SHELLING OF POSITION EAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION ON 18 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. IN INTERVIEW WITH XAT LAO, APRIL 19, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOUI SANANIKONE DELCARED THAT, SINCE CEASEFIRE IS UNENFORCEABLE, LAOS FINDS ITSELF AGAIN " AT WAR". HE SAID THAT, IF WAR RESUMES THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA, LAO INTERNAL TALKS WOULD BE " WAST OF TIME" AND SHOULD BE STOPPED. (COMMENT: PHOUI' S REMARKS CONSITUTE RESTATEMENT OF STANDARD RIGHTIST VIEWS AND ARE NOT ACCURATE IN REGARD TO CEASE-FIRE, IT IS CLEAR THAT NEW RIGHTIST PRESSURE TO SCUTTLE TALKS WOULD BE NEITHER IN USG NOR RLG INTEREST. THEREFORE, WE HAVE REMINDED SANANIKONE GROUP OF OUR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS.)

B. RLG CHIEF NEGOTIATOR NGON SANANIKONE TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 19 THAT SINCE RETURNING FROM LUANG PRABANG NEW YEAR' S CEREMONIES APRIL 16, HE AND LPF COUNTERPART PHOUN SIPRASEUTH HAVE RESUMED TWICE- DAILY MEETINGS. NGON CONFIRMED NO PROGRESS IS BEING MADE SINCE LPF CONTINUES TO DEMAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT AND IS ALSO STANDING FIRM ON DEMAND FOR INTERIOR AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRIES. NGON ASSESSED PROSPECTS FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS AS VERY DIM BUT SPECULATED THAT LPF DESIRE TO CONTINUE PRIVATE TALKS COULD MEAN THAT LPF MIGHT EVENTUALLY MOVE QUICKLY INTO SERIOUS BARGAINING WHEN HANOI GIVES THE SIGNAL.

C. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE HAS REPORTED THAT APRIL 18 CABINET MEETING ENDORSED CREATION OF MILITARY MISSION FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES WITHIN RLG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND ATTACHED IT TO OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER. (COMMENT: THIS MISSION IS SAME ENTITY CREATED SHORTLY AFTER THE CEASEFIRE AND HEADED BY GENERAL BOUNTHIENG. PLACING THE MISSION IN OFFICE OF PRIME CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTR APPEARS PRUDENT MOVE WHICH ENABLES PRIME MINISTER PROVIDE CLOSER GUIDANCE FOR ITS CTIVITIES.)

D. RADIO PATHET LAO (RPL) APRIL 18, CARRIED PERFUNCTORY PROTESTS AGAINST (1) U. S. BOMBING RAIDS IN THAVIENG AREA AND (2) ALLEGED RLG MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LPF- CONTROLLED AREA, ESPECIALLY AROUND THAKHEK, DONG HENE AND THA VIANG. RPL ACCUSES RLG AND USG OF INTENTIONALLY STALLING INTERNAL TALKS AND SABOTAGING IMPLEMENTATION OF VIENTIANE ACCORDS. RPL, ON APRIL 17, ALSO BROADCAST RECORDED SPEECH BY FORMER LPF CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT TO STUDENT AUDIENCE IN SAM NEUA, IN WHICH HE DENIED RUMORS THAT HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED AND HOSPITALIZED AFTER DISPUTE OVER VIENTIANE AGREEMENT WITHIN LPF ITSELF. HE ALSO DENIED THAT LPF CHAIRMAN SOUPHANOUVONG DISAPPROVED AGREEMENT, AND CHARGED THAT ALLEGATIONS OF SPLIT IN LPF LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE WERE " MENDACIOUS SLANDERS" FOMENTED BY U. S. IMPERIALISTS AND " VIENTIANE SIDE." GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI03028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaisio.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 VIENTIANE 2982
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: LAO SITUATION REPORT -- APRIL 19
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA, PINT
To: BANGKOK
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005